

Council

Appointment of New Parish Representative to the Standards Committee

18 May 2010

Report of Team Leader – Planning and Litigation / Interim Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To confirm the appointment of Councillor John Coley as the new Parish Representative of the Standards Committee and to confirm that no substitute Parish Representatives be recruited at this time.

This report is public

Recommendations

Council is recommended:

- (1) To approve the appointment of Councillor John Coley as Parish Representative of the Standards Committee for an initial two year term.
- (2) To approve the recommendation of the Standards Committee that in light of the proposals in the Localism Bill to abolish the standards regime, no deputy Parish Representatives be recruited at this stage.

Executive Summary

Introduction

- 1.1 In March 2011 Councillor Greenslade-Hibbert advised that he would be stepping down from the Standards Committee. Councillor Greenslade-Hibbert would not be standing for re-election at the May 2011 parish elections and would therefore not be qualified to sit on the Standards Committee as Parish Representative.
- 1.2 The resignation of Councillor Greenslade-Hibbert would leave a vacancy on the Committee. It is important to appoint to this vacancy as soon as possible to ensure the Committee does not fall below the minimum requirements for Parish Representatives.

Proposals

- 1.3 The legal minimum number of Parish Representatives on the Standards Committee is two. The Standards Committee currently has one deputy parish representative: Councillor Coley. The Committee has the discretion to decide how it recruits parish representatives and make recommendations to Council accordingly. Councillor Coley indicated that he would be happy to become a full member of the Standards Committee. This was approved by the Committee and is now being recommended to Council for approval.
- 1.4 If Council approves the recommendation to appoint Councillor Coley as a full Parish Representative, the Committee will have no deputy Parish Representatives. In light of the proposals in the Localism Bill to abolish the Standards for England regime, which removes the requirement for councils to have a local standards committee, the Committee recommends that no deputy parish representatives be recruited at this time.

Conclusion

- 1.5 The Council is required to appoint a minimum of two Parish Representatives to the Standards Committee. Parish Representatives are important members of Standards Committees particularly in assisting with the local assessment of complaints.

Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

- 2.1 It is a requirement that the Council must appoint a certain number of parish representatives.
- 2.2 The Committee also needs to maintain a certain number parish representatives to assist in the local assessment of complaints.

The following options have been identified. The approach in the recommendations is believed to be the best way forward

Option One	Accept the recommendations as drafted
Option Two	Amend the recommendations
Option Three	Reject the recommendations

Implications

Financial:	The costs for the Parish Representatives are contained within the budget. Comments checked by Karen Muir, Corporate System Accountant 01295 221559
Legal:	Until the Localism Bill receives Royal Assent in late 2011,

the committee has a responsibility to comply with the Standards for England guidance on committee membership. It is necessary to maintain a certain level of parish representatives to ensure the committee can carry out the local assessment of complaints.

Comments checked by Nigel Bell, Team Leader – Planning and Litigation 01295 221687

Risk Management:

Until the Localism Bill receives Royal Assent in late 2011, the Council has a requirement to follow the Standards for England guidance relating to Standards Committee membership, failure to comply with the guidance could result in intervention by Standards for England which would be damaging to the Council's reputation.

Comments checked by James Doble, Democratic, Scrutiny and Elections Manager, 01295 221589

Wards Affected

All

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
None	
Background Papers	
Local Standards Framework Guide for authorities	
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